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ETON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1946.

To the Chairman and Members of the Eton Urban District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my report for the year 1946 which has been compiled in accordance with Circular 49/45 of the Ministry of Health.

SECTION A.

Population (Registrar General's Estimate, Mid Year 1946) - 4,414

Vital Statistics.

Live Births.

Total.....	53	Male	31	Female	22
Legitimate..	52	"	31	"	21
Illegitimate	1	"	-	"	1

Birth rate per 1,000 population (excluding boys at Eton College).....15.9
National rate.....19.1

Deaths.

Total..... 32 Male 15 Female 17

Death rate per 1,000 population..... 7.2
National rate.....11.5

Maternal Mortality rate per 1,000 total Births..... nil
National rate.....1.06

Deaths of Infants under 1.

Total 2 Male 2 Female 0

Infant Mortality rate per 1,000 Live Births.....37.7
National rate.....43.0

Deaths from Measles.. .....nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough.....nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age).....nil

Causes of Death.

	Male	Female	Total.
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	2	-	2
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	-	1	1
Influenza	-	1	1
Cancer	3	5	8
Intra-cranial Vascular Lesions	1	1	2
Heart Disease	4	4	8
Bronchitis	1	1	2
Other Respiratory Diseases	1	-	1
Pneumonia	1	1	2
Premature Birth	1	-	1
Congenital Malformations	1	-	1
Suicide	-	1	1
Other Causes	-	2	2

The health of the district has been generally good although there has been a minor epidemic of measles and a small but well controlled outbreak of Diphtheria. The Infant Mortality rate has dropped from 58.8 to 37.2 and is now well below the national rate of 43. The death rate is also low (7.2) compared with the national rate (11.5), although there has been a slight increase in deaths from cancer and heart disease. The Maternal Mortality rate is nil. More cases of Tuberculosis were notified this year than last year but this rise is general throughout the country and is possibly an aftermath of war conditions.

The sanitary circumstances of the area continue to show progress and improvement. It is to be hoped that when circumstances permit the few remaining properties in the district still on cesspool drainage will be connected to the main sewer. Housing conditions throughout the country are still causing much difficulty and this district cannot hope to escape troubles due to overcrowding and to the continued occupation of unsatisfactory dwellings. Progress has been made towards re-housing necessitous persons thereby contributing in no small measure to the health of the neighbourhood.

SECTION B.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water Supply. Water is supplied throughout the District by the Windsor Corporation Waterworks, a constant supply of good wholesome water being given. The undertakers subject the untreated and treated water to regular monthly analyses, and during the year all were found to be of a satisfactory standard. One sample was also taken for chemical analysis and was found to be satisfactory.

Samples of water from 7 wells were also examined with satisfactory results.

During the year 3 of the dwellings without a piped water supply were connected to the public water supply main.

Drainage and Sewerage. The sewers have been extended to provide facilities for a further 150 houses in Tilston Field.

The method of disposal is by broad irrigation on the Council's Sewerage Farm at Eton Wick. During the year, negotiations have been proceeding for the joint disposal of sewerage with the Slough Corporation. These have proceeded to the point where agreement on all points has been reached between the two Authorities and the proposals are now before the Ministry of Health for their approval.

Only 12 properties remain to be connected to the public sewers. This excludes the 17 properties for which no public sewer facilities are available.

The cesspools are emptied frequently, the contents of which are disposed of at the Sewage Farm.

Salvage. Owing to the difficulty of collection limited salvage has been undertaken. The following material has been salvaged during the year:-

	Tons	Cwts.	£	s	d
Paper	20		62	8	0
Bottles and Jars	10		20	0	0
Bones		4	1	8	0

In addition, private pig details have carried out a thorough collection of kitchen waste and approximately 300 pigs are fed from this source.

The drop in paper salvage by the Council is counterbalanced by the fact that many of the previous sources of supply now dispose of the paper direct to the merchants.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

Number of Council Houses infested	3
Number of other houses infested	6
Number of Council Houses disinfested	3
Number of other houses disinfested	6

Miscellaneous Controlled Premises.

Description.	No. in District	No. Registered	No. of Inspections made
Bakehouses	2	2	2
Slaughterhouses	1	1	not used
Cowkeepers	7	7)	
Dairies (including Milk Retailers)	15	15)	30

Out-Workers. The latest list of out-workers contains 18 persons engaged with 4 firms on tailoring work and 11 persons engaged with 1 firm on box making.

Disinfection. Rooms in 5 houses were disinfected after cases of infectious disease.

Houses. 6 Houses were built in the area during the year and 16 were under construction at 31st March, 1947. Three premises were requisitioned and house four families. Overcrowding due to war conditions is still prevalent.

Eleven licences have been issued to private interprise for new houses, 9 have been completed and occupied. Two old houses have been repaired and re-occupied and from conversions carried out have provided additional housing accommodation.

A licence was granted to one house for occupation for a further 12 months.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk Supply. There were 6 supplementary Milk Licences issued under the Milk and Dairies (Special Designations) Order, 1936/38.

The milk from the Council's farm continued to be of good quality. The cowsheds have been regularly inspected and found to be kept in a generally satisfactory condition.

The Council discontinued its dairy herd on the 25th March, 1947.

Meat and other foods.

28 stones of fish, 99 lbs. of meat, 68 lbs. tinned meat, 18 lbs. tinned fish, 93 lbs. cheese, 8 lbs. sausages and 73 tins of tinned foods have been condemned as unfit for human consumption.

Ice Cream and preserved Foods.

21 shops have registered for the sale or manufacture of ice cream and preserved foods under the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

Details of Sanitary Inspection.

Drainage.		Housing.	
New drainage work	8	Dampness	15
Existing drainage	5	Defective ceilings	3
Interviews with owners re drains	2	Defective range	6
Blocked sewers	4	Defective Well	-
Defective Drains	2		
Deposits of sewage	-		

Cowsheds and Dairies.		Miscellaneous.	
Advice to owner	1	Inspection of fairs	2
Premises not being used	nil	Inspection of Bake-houses	3
Dirty floors	2	Water analyses	-
Limewashing required	7	Nuisance of pests	-
Roof dirty	2	Nuisance of bugs	9

Rodent Control.

During the year, the Council appointed a Rodent Operator. A full survey of the town has been carried out including a 10% test on the sewers. All cases of infestation have been treated with satisfaction.

SECTION C.

Notifiable Diseases during 1946.
(Other than Tuberculosis)

Disease	Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Eton Joint Isolation Hospital	Deaths
Diphtheria	7+	7	-
Scarlet Fever	1	1	-
Enteric Fever	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-
Pneumonia	1	-	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-
Measles	91⊕	1	-
Whooping Cough	5	-	-
Anterior Poliomyelitis	2	1	1

\+ 3 at the College ⊕ 61 at the College.

One case of Scarlet Fever from the College was notified in June. A minor epidemic of measles occurred in the latter third of the year and continued into 1947, 91 cases were notified of whom 61 occurred at the College. The epidemic was fortunately mild and no deaths were reported. Of the 7 cases of Diphtheria only one was notified from the town, the remainder occurring amongst the boys and personnel of one house at the College. After some difficulty, a carrier of this disease was located, isolated and treated and no further cases have been reported.

Laboratory Examinations.

The following specimens for the Eton Urban District have been examined during the year at the Town Hall Laboratory.

Swabs for Diphtheria Bacilli	72
Miscellaneous	9
Sputum for Tuberculosis	11
Faeces for Dysentery, etc.	2

J.W.Webb.

Medical Officer of Health.